

In the Claims:

All of the currently pending claims are listed below including any amendments proposed herein. Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A method for replicating a plurality of original packets in a packet flow received by a first device, the packet flow following a first routing path which includes the first device, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a second device for connecting with the first device, the request identifying at least one predetermined criterion;

connecting the first device with the second device in response to the request;

receiving the packet flow with a the first device, ~~the first device being included in the first routing path;~~

in the first device, identifying the original packets in the packet flow according to the at least one predetermined criterion;

in the first device, generating replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;

transmitting the original packets from the first device along the first routing path; and

transmitting the replicate packets from the first device along a second routing path, the second routing path being different from the first routing path and including the second device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein the first and second devices communicate using a protocol which comprises a packet redirection protocol.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the packet redirection protocol comprises an object caching protocol.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the original packets indicate a destination device, the destination device being included in the first routing path, the first device transmitting the original packets to the destination device via the first routing path, the second device facilitating transmission of the replicate packets to the destination device via the second routing path.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the second device comprises a test device for facilitating inspection of the replicate packets.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the original packets indicate one of a plurality of destination devices each of the destination devices being logically connected with the first device via a protocol, a first one of the destination devices being included in the first routing path, a second one of destination devices being included in the second routing path, and wherein the replicate packets are transmitted along the second routing path to the second one of the destination devices.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
determining which of the original and replicate packets reach their respective destination devices first, thereby identifying a winner destination device; and
awarding a connection to an originating device to the winner destination device.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the original packets originate from a source device, the method for replicating the original packets being transparent to the source device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the original packets indicate a destination device, the method for replicating the original packets being transparent to the destination device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device comprises a router.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined criterion comprises a source address.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined criterion comprises a destination address.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined criterion comprises a socket.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined criterion comprises a port.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined criterion comprises a protocol type.

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus for replicating a plurality of original packets in a packet flow received by a first device, the packet flow following a first routing path which includes the first device, the method comprising:

means for receiving a request from a second device for connecting with the first device,
the request identifying at least one predetermined criterion;

means for connecting the first device with the second device in response to the request;

means for receiving the packet flow, ~~the receiving means being included in the first~~
~~routing path;~~

means for identifying the original packets in the packet flow according to the at least one predetermined criterion;

means for generating replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;

means for transmitting the original packets along the first routing path; and

means for transmitting the replicate packets along a second routing path, the second routing path being different from the first routing path and including the second device.

20. (Currently amended) A router operable to replicate a plurality of original packets in a packet flow, the packet flow following a first routing path which includes the router, the router comprising:

a memory having at least a portion of a router operating system stored therein; and

a processor for controlling operation of the router according to the router operating system, the processor being configured by the router operating system to:

receive a request from a requesting device for connecting with the router,
the request identifying at least one predetermined criterion;
connect the router with the requesting device in response to the request;
receive the packet flow with the router, ~~the router being included in the~~
~~first routing path;~~
identify the original packets in the packet flow according to the at least one
predetermined criterion;
generate replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;
transmit the original packets from the router along the first routing path;
and
transmit the replicate packets from the router along a second routing path,
the second routing path being different from the first routing path and including
the requesting device.

21. (Currently amended) A computer program product for replicating a plurality of
original packets in a packet flow received by a processing device, the packet flow following a
first routing path which includes the processing device, the computer program product
comprising:

at least one computer readable medium; and
computer program instructions stored in the at least one computer readable medium for
causing a the processing device to:

receive a request from a second device for connecting with the processing
device, the request identifying at least one predetermined criterion;
connect with the second device in response to the request;

receive the packet flow, ~~the processing device being included in the first routing path;~~

identify the original packets in the packet flow according to the at least one predetermined criterion;

generate replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;

transmit the original packets along the first routing path; and

transmit the replicate packets along a second routing path, the second routing path being different from the first routing path and including the second device.

22. (Original) A method for remotely monitoring a portion of a packet flow associated with a first device using a second device, the packet flow following a first routing path, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the second device for connecting with the first device via a protocol;

logically connecting with the second device via the protocol;

receiving the packet flow with the first device, the first device being included in the first routing path;

in the first device, identifying original packets in the packet flow according to at least one predetermined criterion;

in the first device, generating replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;

transmitting the original packets from the first device along the first routing path; and

transmitting the replicate packets from the first device to the second device along a second routing path, the second routing path being different from the first routing path.

23. (Original) A router operable to facilitate monitoring by a remote device of a portion of a packet flow associated with a router, the packet flow following a first routing path which includes the router, the router comprising:

a memory having at least a portion of a router operating system stored therein; and
a processor for controlling operation of the router according to the router operating system, the processor being configured by the router operating system to:

receive a request from the remote device for connecting with the first device via a protocol;

logically connect with the remote device via the protocol;

receive the packet flow;

identify original packets in the packet flow according to at least one predetermined criterion;

generate replicate packets corresponding to the original packets;

transmit the original packets along the first routing path; and

transmit the replicate packets to the remote device along a second routing path, the second routing path being different from the first routing path.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)